

Conservation Security Program

Basic Eligibility Checklist

The Conservation Security Program (CSP) is a voluntary conservation program rewarding those farmers and ranchers meeting the highest conservation standards on their land.

The following lists preliminary CSP application criteria. If you answer “No” to any of the questions listed on this factsheet, you will not be eligible for CSP and may want to consider enrolling in another 2002 Farm Bill program. In addition, land currently enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) or the Grasslands Reserve Program (GRP) is not eligible for CSP.

If you answer “Yes” to the questions on this factsheet, you may want to move onto the Self-Assessment Workbook and the Idaho CSP Conservation Recordbook.

Basic Operation & Production

- ☐ Do you share in the risk of producing crops or livestock on the operation AND are you entitled to share in the the agriculture operation’s production?
- ☐ Do you have control of some or all the land you manage for the proposed five to ten-year contract period?
- ☐ Is at least part of your land private agricultural land or Tribal land AND is the majority located within an approved CSP watershed?
- ☐ Is your average adjusted gross income less than or equal to \$2.5 million, or if greater than \$2.5 million, did 75 percent or more come from farming, ranching or forestry?
- ☐ Was your cropland used for crop production as part of a long term rotation for four out of six years prior to May 13, 2002?



Conservation Activities

To be eligible for CSP, at minimum, you must show that you are managing your farm or ranch to enhance soil health and water quality. The conservation activities that address these resource concerns will vary depending on your operation’s slope, climate, soil texture and other characteristics.

Generally, if you are maintaining and improving soil fertility, reducing soil erosion, managing water use and improving water quality, you have taken the first steps toward a successful CSP contract. Below are examples of conservation activities that must be completed and documented in your application to be eligible for CSP.

Do you currently...

- ☐ Control erosion or soil loss?
- ☐ Use buffers to protect water sources?
- ☐ Regularly test soils and apply fertilizers to nutrient/crop production guides?
- ☐ Use integrated pest management (IPM), field scouting, precision spray/low volume application, etc.?
- ☐ Keep records of fertilizer and pesticide applications (at least two years of documentation for the CSP application)?
- ☐ If irrigated, schedule applications based on crop needs?
- ☐ Are you willing to pursue additional conservation enhancements?

For More Information

For more information about CSP, contact your local NRCS Service Center or visit the web at www.id.nrcs.usda.gov.

Cropland

In addition to answering “Yes” to the above questions, do you...

- ☐ Rotate your crops?

Pastureland & Rangeland

In addition to answering “Yes” to the above questions, do you...

- ☐ Use a grazing plan allowing for periods of rest?
- ☐ Keep records of livestock/grazing production (at least two years for the CSP application)?
- ☐ Manage livestock access to water?
- ☐ Actively control weeds and invasive plants?
- ☐ Monitor grazing land and/or rangeland health?



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